



The Good News

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Why do some reject “organized religion”?

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There are millions of people in our world today that believe in God. Most of these millions will also claim to believe in the Bible as the word of God. However, many of the millions of people that are “spiritual” reject organized religion. At some point in time, we will all encounter someone that truly believes that they can please God and be saved without organized religion. There are many reasons for this, and with some of these reasons we can empathize. Last week we discussed whether we can be saved and please God without organized religion, and we observed from the Scriptures that we cannot. This week we will examine some of those reasons, the logic behind them, and how we can talk to individuals who use them as the basis for their rejecting organized religion.

We will examine four different reasons that some say justifies their rejection of organized religion, but in the end, there are similar responses to all these reasons. Ultimately, is there any reason to disobey God? Of course not. Some may argue “Well, no one else is properly serving God, so what’s the point?” This harkens back to the age-old parental anecdote of “If everyone else jumps off a bridge, should you?” Our conduct and decisions cannot be based on what everyone else does or doesn’t do. We will be judged by the Lord on our own actions and decisions. What everyone else was doing will not justify us. Paul writes in **II Cor. 5:10**, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” We will not be able to offer the excuse that we chose not

to obey because some “Christians” were hypocrites, or that some were self-righteous. The truth is that most of the individuals who reject organized religion have had some bad experience with a “Christian” or in a “church” as the basis for their reasons. But consider how Paul dealt with hypocrisy in **Gal. 2:11-13**, “Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.” Did Paul use this example of hypocrisy as a reason to be a hypocrite himself? Did he use it as a reason to reject “organized religion”? No! He confronted it! If someone is being hypocritical or self-righteous then talk to them! Just because they chose to jump off that particular bridge does not mean we are vindicated if we do the same.

When we boil it down, there are two main reasons why a person rejects organized religion, regardless of the experience they have had: either they are using the bad examples of others to justify how they live their own lives or they truly do not understand the nature of the Lord’s Church. There is absolutely NO JUSTIFIABLE REASON to not obey God. It’s simply a choice.